

areas of Lake Champlain and reduce sea lamprey population levels and associated impacts there.

(c) Employ an integrated approach to continuing sea lamprey control using lampricides and nonchemical means.

(2) What mitigation and monitoring measures are required for sound resource management?

(3) Is sea lamprey control in the best interest for the resource and citizens of the states of New York and Vermont?

The Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is expected to be released by April, 2001. The Responsible Officials will make a decision regarding this proposal after considering public comments, and the environmental consequences displayed in the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, applicable laws, regulations, and policies. The decision and supporting reason will be documented in the Record of Decision.

Dated November 3, 1999.

**Ronald E. Lambertson,**

*Regional Director.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force Meeting

**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** This notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The meeting topics are identified in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**.

**DATES:** The Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force will meet from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, December 1, 1999 and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., Thursday, December 2, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 200 AB, Arlington, Virginia.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sharon Gross, Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force at 703-358-2308 or by e-mail at: sharon\_gross@fws.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Pursuant to section 10(a)(2) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App. I), this notice announces a meeting of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The Task Force was established

by the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990.

Topics to be addressed during the meeting include briefings about regional nonindigenous species problems and initiatives, a discussion on the establishment of additional regional panels, action on the approval of the Iowa State Management Plan, updates from several ANS Task Force committees including the regional panels, and other issues.

Minutes of the meeting will be maintained by the Executive Secretary, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Suite 851, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203-1622, and will be available for public inspection during regular business hours, Monday through Friday.

Dated: November 9, 1999.

**Cathleen I. Short,**

*Co-Chair, Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, Assistant Director—Fisheries.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Fish and Wildlife Service

#### United States Coral Reef Task Force: Options for the United States To Consider To Promote the Conservation of Coral Reefs; Public Meeting

**AGENCY:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of public meeting.

**SUMMARY:** On behalf of the United States Coral Reef Task Force, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, announce a public meeting to discuss the trade in non-food fish coral reef species, the effects of this trade on coral reefs, and measures which the United States should consider to minimize these effects and promote coral reef conservation. Representatives of other agencies involved in the Trade Subgroup will participate in the meeting to answer questions and receive public comments on potential conservation actions.

**DATES:** The public meeting will be held on Monday, December 6 from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

**ADDRESSES:** The public meeting will be held in Room 7000A and B, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Sheila Einsweiler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, telephone (703) 358-1949, fax (703) 358-2271, E-mail: Sheila\_Einsweiler@fws.gov.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

## Background

We request that anyone that wishes to speak at this public meeting contact us using the contact information above so that we can ensure that everyone is given enough time to express their opinions. We request that everyone who speaks at this meeting also give us their comments in writing. If you are unable to attend the meeting but still wish to comment, you may submit your comments by any one of several methods. You may mail comments to the following address: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of the Assistant Director for International Affairs, 1849 C Street, Room 3245, Washington, DC 20240. You may comment via the Internet to r9oma\_cites@fws.gov. Please submit Internet comments as an ASCII file, avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Please also include "Attn: Public Meeting on U.S. Coral Reef Task Force", and your name and return address in your Internet message. If you do not receive a confirmation from the system that we have received your Internet message, contact us directly at the telephone number listed above. Finally, you may hand-deliver comments to the above address. We will consider comments and information received by December 10, 1999.

Coral reefs are recognized as being among the most diverse and valuable ecosystems on earth. Reef systems are storehouses of immense biological wealth and provide economic and ecosystem services to millions of people as shoreline protection, areas of natural beauty and recreation, and sources of food, pharmaceuticals, jobs, and revenues. According to one estimate, reef habitats provide humans with services worth about \$375 billion each year, despite the fact that they cover less than one percent of the earth's surface.

Unfortunately, coral reefs are also recognized as being among the most threatened marine ecosystems on the planet. Coral reefs are being seriously degraded by human activities, especially overexploitation of resources, destructive fishing practices, coastal development, and runoff from improper land-use practices. The international trade in coral, reef fish, live rock, and other coral reef organisms contributes to the decline and degradation of reefs. Coral reef resources traded internationally supply a wide number of markets and industries, including the seafood industry, live food fish markets, the aquarium trade, the curio and jewelry trade, and the pharmaceutical and research industries. As a major consumer of coral reef organisms and a